

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 15-18, 23, 25, 30-33, and 35-39 are pending in the present application. Claims 12-14, 19-22, 24, and 26-29 were previously canceled and claim 34 is canceled herein. Claims 1-11, 15-18, 30, 35, 37, and 39 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-11, 15-18, 23, 35, and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,730,156, hereinafter "Matsuda") in view of Famworth, *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,369,595, hereinafter "Famworth"). Claims 30-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1, as currently amended, specifically recites "loading the test carrier onto a carrier socket." Matsuda, singly or in combination with Famworth, does not teach or suggest loading a test carrier into a carrier socket. Rather, Matsuda teaches inserting IC packages into an IC socket. There is no indication of the IC socket being loaded with a test carrier. See for example, column 2, lines 43-45. Famworth does not cure these deficiencies.

Examiner has incorrectly interpreted the socket as the test carrier. (Office Action mailed August 29, 2008, page 2). The claim as amended clarifies the difference between the test carrier and the socket. Clearly, Matsuda does not teach or suggest a test carrier or a carrier socket. Hence, independent claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-11, 15-18, 23, and 25 depend from claim 1 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations.

Claim 30, as currently amended, specifically recites “a carrier socket for holding the carrier, the carrier socket being coupled to the contact tester, wherein the carrier is coupled to the contact tester through the carrier socket.” Matsuda, singly or in combination with Famworth, does not teach or suggest a carrier socket for holding a carrier. Rather, Matsuda teaches inserting IC packages into an IC socket. There is no indication of the IC socket being loaded with a carrier. See for example, column 2, lines 43-45. Famworth does not cure these deficiencies. Hence, independent claim 30 is allowable.

Claims 31-33 depend from claim 30 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations.

Claim 35, as currently amended, specifically recites “loading a carrier inside a carrier socket” and “loading the semiconductor device inside the carrier.” Matsuda, singly or in combination with Famworth, does not teach or suggest loading a carrier inside a carrier socket *and* loading a semiconductor device inside the carrier. Rather, Matsuda teaches inserting IC packages into an IC socket. There is no indication of the IC socket being loaded with a carrier. Matsuda does not teach or suggest a test carrier and a carrier socket. See for example, column 2, lines 43-45. Famworth does not cure these deficiencies. Hence, independent claim 35 is allowable.

Claims 36-39 depend from claim 35 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations.

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Ira S. Matsil, Applicant's Attorney, at 972-732-1001, so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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